

Date

Dear Fname Lname,

Your screening kit for the SOS study is enclosed! As we mentioned in our last letter, this home test kit will screen you for colon cancer. Screening is important because it:

- **Prevents cancer** by finding growths (called polyps) before they have a chance to become cancer.
- **Finds cancer early**, before symptoms appear. When colon cancer is found later, it is much more difficult to treat.

This screening test is called an FOBT, which stands for “Fecal Occult Blood Test.” It tests for hidden blood in the stool, which can be an early sign of colon cancer. The test kit includes instructions and a postage paid envelope for mailing the kit back to the Group Health lab.

Please complete the test kit and return it in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

- **If you complete the screening test and your result is negative**, you will receive a letter from the Group Health lab. A negative result means that there were no signs of hidden blood in your stool and you don’t currently need follow-up care.
- **If you complete the screening test and your result is positive**, your health care team will contact you to begin follow-up care, and you will receive a letter from the Group Health lab. A positive result does not usually mean that cancer is present. It just means that more tests are needed.

If you prefer to do one of the other screening tests for colon cancer (flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy), or if you want more information, you may call the study information line (toll free) at **1-800-XXX-XXXX**.

As always, if you have any questions about the study, please call our project manager, Fname Lname, at **(XXX) XXX-XXXX**.

Thank you again for taking part in SOS!

Sincerely,

Beverly B. Green MD, MPH
Group Health Research Institute